REMARKS

The above amendments and these remarks are responsive to the Office action dated December 30, 2004. Claims 1-43 are pending in the application. In the Office action, claims 1-15, 17-18, 21-25, and 29-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,742,043 to Moussa et al. Claims 16, 19-20 and 26-28 are rejected as obvious over Moussa in view of Official Notice. Furthermore, the disclosure is objected to for various reasons.

First, applicant has amended the specification in accordance with the Examiner's requirements. Applicant believes that these amendments address all of the Examiner's objections to the specification.

Next, applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of claim 1 as anticipated by Moussa. Nevertheless, applicant herein amends claim 1 to recite a method of computer networking including receiving a request for a web resource from a remote client, sending a message to initiate a page rendering process at the remote client, wherein content of the message is independent of the request, processing the request, and sending the requested response to the client.

In contrast, Moussa does not disclose or suggest a method of computer networking that includes all of the elements of amended claim 1. Moussa discloses, (for example, beginning at col. 2, l. 48, and beginning at col. 10, l. 47) storing image size information for a previously-accessed web page in a cache on a proxy server, and if the previously-accessed web page is requested by a client, then rewriting the HTML of the web page to include image size information in the HTML web page, and then sending the HTML of the web page to the client.

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According to Moussa at col. 2, ll. 57-62,

"The browser does not have to wait until it deciphers the HTML of the background page, identifies the image tag, issues a request for the image data identified by the image tag, and receives the actual image data with the size information. The size information is received along with the original HTML."

Therefore, the methods taught by Moussa still requires the content of the request to be determined before sending any message to the client. Furthermore, the message sent to the client is the HTML of the requested page, and include additional request-specific size information not found in the original HTML document. For at least this reason, Moussa neither teaches nor suggests all of the elements of amended claim 1, and claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 2-13 and 16-20 depend from and include all of the elements of amended claim 1, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Next, applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 21 as anticipated by Moussa. Claim 21 recites a method for computer networking including receiving multiple requests from one or more remote clients, each request being for a web resource, sending a generic message to each client before processing the request, processing the request, and sending a response to each client including at least a portion of the requested web resource.

In contrast, Moussa does not disclose sending a generic message to each client before processing each request from a client. Instead, Moussa teaches sending specific responses to specific requests from clients. The examiner states (in reference to claim 11, which is also directed to a generic response) that Moussa teaches sending an initial generic portion of the response, citing col. 10, lines 45-60 to support the assertion that "the actual file requested has not yet arrived from the content server." However, in the cited passage, Moussa actually teaches

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inserting image size information into the requested HTML before passing the HTML to the client. This is not a generic response as contemplated by claim 21, as both the HTML and the size information added to the HTML are specific to the request received. For at least this reason, claim 21 is not anticipated by Moussa. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration of claim 21, and dependent claims 22-29.

Next, applicant also respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 30. Nevertheless, applicant herein amends claim 30 to recite a networking device including a controller configured to receive multiple requests from one or more remote clients, each request being for a web resource, send a generic message to initiate the page rendering process at the browser of the remote client to each of the clients in response to, and before processing, the request, and send the requested web resource to the client via the computer network.

In contrast, as discussed above, Moussa discloses sending a specifically requested HTML document to a client, rather than a generic message. Therefore, for at least this reason, amended claim 30 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 31-39 depend from and include all of the elements of claim 1, and are therefore also in condition for allowance.

Applicant also respectfully traverses the rejection of claim 40. However, applicant herein amends claim 40 to recite a system for use in computer networking including a computer network, a web server, a remote client configured to request a web resource from the web server via the computer network, and an acceleration device positioned intermediate the web server and the remote client on the computer network, the acceleration device being configured to, upon receipt of the request, send an application level, request-independent message to the remote client before processing the request.

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In contrast, Moussa teaches sending request-dependent messages in response to requests from clients. For example, as described above, at col. 10, lines 45-60, Moussa teaches receiving a request from a client and sending a specific HTML web page to the client in response to the request, wherein the HTML web page includes image size data specific to that web page. Moussa does not teach sending a request-independent message in response to a request from a client. For at least this reason, amended claim 40 is in condition for allowance. Furthermore, claims 41-42 depend from and include all of the elements of amended claim 40, and are also in condition for allowance.

Applicant furthermore traverses the rejection of claim 43. Nevertheless, applicant herein amends claim 43 to recite an article including a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a computing system, the instructions provide for receiving multiple requests from one or more clients, sending, in response to, and before processing of, the request, a generic message adapted to initiate a page rendering process at the browser, processing the request by obtaining the requested web resource, and sending the requested web resource to each of the clients.

In contrast, Moussa does not teach or suggest all of the elements of amended claim 43. For example, as described above, Moussa does not teach sending a generic message. Instead, Moussa teaches sending a request-specific message in reponse to a request. Furthermore, Moussa does not teach sending a message before processing a request. Instead, Moussa teaches processing a request (for example, modifying an HTML web page to include image size data) before sending a response (for example, the modified HTML web page). Therefore, for at least these reasons, amended claim 43 is not anticipated by Moussa, and is in condition for allowance.

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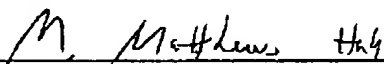   Serial No. 09/975,282

The above amendments and remarks are believed to address fully the Examiner's rejections, and place the application in condition for allowance. A prompt indication of the same respectfully is requested. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if any issues remain that may be resolved by a telephonic interview.

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Mail Stop AMENDMENT, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on March 17, 2005.

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Respectfully submitted,

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